THE
CATHOLIC RADICAL

"...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed." Peter Maurin

February/March 2020 ***Price: For whatever it's worth.***

The Whole Truth

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

On the feast of the Holy Family, I attended Mass at Saint Rose of Lima Church in Littleton, New Hampshire, with my wife, oldest son, daughter-in-law, and three of my grandchildren. The church was crowded, so I stood behind the back pew overlooking two racks of pamphlets. I couldn't help but notice that the vast majority were related to abortion, with one opposing assisted suicide, another opposing contraception, and one favoring outreach to the poor. Many churches I visit have similar displays with similar emphasis. In the broad context of Catholic social teaching, I couldn't help but feel that vital issues were being ignored, censored, or even opposed.

One pamphlet, published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, seemed to beg for companions. On its cover, it displayed a young Asian woman with the title "LIFE MATTERS: ABORTION" and a subtitle "RESPECT LIFE." Where were the pamphlets "LIFE MATTERS: NUCLEAR WEAPONS," "LIFE MATTERS: THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY," "LIFE MATTERS: THE DEATH PENALTY," "LIFE MATTERS: IMMIGRATION," and "LIFE MATTERS: POVERTY"?

The Second Vatican Council called nuclear war "a crime against God and humanity... that merits unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation." On November 24, 2019, Pope Francis said in Hiroshima, Japan, "In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance, and sale of ever more destructive weapons are an affront crying out to heaven." He called for a condemnation of the possession of nuclear weapons to be added to the Catholic Catechism.

In June 2019, Pope Francis said, "For too long, we have collectively failed to listen to the fruits of scientific analysis. Faced with a climate emergency, we must take action accordingly, in order to avoid perpetrating a brutal act of injustice towards the poor and future generations."

On July 29, 2019, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, in response to the federal government's decision to resume capital punishment, issued a statement saying: "In his address to Congress during his 2015 Apostolic visit to the United States, Pope Francis called for 'the global abolition of the death penalty.' He further stated that, '[A] just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and

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What Would You Do?

by Joan Baez

Fred: OK. So you're a pacifist. What would you do if someone were, say, attacking your grandmother? ...Say he had a gun and he was about to shoot her. Would you shoot him first?
Joan: Do I have a gun?
Fred: Yes
Joan: No. I'm a pacifist, I don't have a gun.
Fred: Well, I say you do.
Joan: All right. Am I a good shot?
Fred: Yes.
Joan: I'd shoot the gun out of his hand.
Fred: You're not that good of a shot.
Joan: I'd be afraid to shoot. Might kill Grandma.
Fred: ...We'll take another example. Say, you're driving a truck. You're on a narrow road with a sheer cliff on your side. There's a little girl sitting in the middle of the road. You're going too fast to stop. What would you do?
Joan: ... Am I in control of the truck?
Fred: Yes.
Joan: How about if I honk my horn so she can get out of the way?
Fred: She's too young to walk. And the horn doesn't work.
Joan: I swerve around to the left of her since she's not going anywhere.
Fred: No, there's been a landslide.
Joan: Well then, I would try to drive the truck over the cliff and save the little girl.

Silence

Fred: Well, say there's someone else in the truck with you. Then what?...
Joan:Why are you so anxious to kill off all the pacifists?
Fred: I'm not. I just want to know what

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What?

(Continued from Page 1)

you'd do if….

Joan: I would probably slam on the brakes, sending my friend through the windscreen, skid into the landslide, run over the little girl, sail off the cliff, and plunge to my own death. No doubt Grandma's house would be at the bottom of the ravine and the truck would crash through her roof and blow up in her living room where she was finally being attacked for the first, and last, time.

Fred: You haven't answered my question.

Joan: I'm trying to say a couple of things. One is that no one knows what they'll do in a moment of crisis and hypothetical questions get hypothetical answers. I'm also hinting that you've made it impossible for me to come out of the situation without having killed one or more people. Then you say, 'Pacifism is a nice idea, but it won't work'. But that's not what bothers me.

Fred: What bothers you?....

Joan: I'm thinking about how we put people through a training process so they'll find out the really good, efficient ways of killing. Nothing incidental like trucks and landslides. Just the opposite, really. You know, how to growl and yell, kill and crawl and jump out of airplanes. Real organized stuff. Hell, you have to be able to run a bayonet through Grandma's middle.

Fred: That's something entirely different.

Joan: Sure. And don't you see it's much harder to look at, because its real, and it's going on right now? Look. A general sticks a pin into a map. A week later a bunch of young boys are sweating it out in a jungle somewhere, shooting each other's arms and legs off, crying, praying, and losing control of their bowels. Doesn't it seem stupid to you?...

Fred: What do you do instead, then? Turn the other cheek, I suppose.

Joan: No. Love thine enemy but confront evil. Love thine enemy. Thou shalt not kill.

Fred: Yeah. Look what happened to him.... I don't want to get hung on a damn cross.

Joan: You won't.

Fred: Huh?

Joan: You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you are going to live. Now.

Fred: Well, I'm not going to go letting everybody step all over me, that's for sure.

Joan: ...The pacifist... says to resist evil with all your heart and with all your mind and body until it has been overcome.

Fred: I don't get it.

Joan: Organized nonviolent resistance. Gandhi. He organized the Indians for nonviolent resistance... against the British until he'd freed India from the Empire. Not bad for a first try, don't you think?....

Fred: It's human nature to kill. Something you can't change.

Joan: Is it? If it's natural to kill, why do men have to go into training to learn how? There's violence in human nature, but there's also decency, love, kindness.... That's all nonviolence is – organized love.. worse flop than the organization of nonviolence has been the organization of violence....Ω

Editor's Note: The full text can be found at: http://peacecenterbooks.com/what-would-you-do-if/

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CATHOLIC **RADICAL**

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Truth

(Continued from Page 1)

the goal of rehabilitation.' As the Catechism of the Catholic Church now provides, 'The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.'"

In its 2000 pastoral letter "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us," the US Conference of Catholic Bishops said: "The Gospel calls us to solidarity with those who are suffering, vulnerable, and in need. In this spirit, we recall the words of Pope John Paul II, who proclaimed, 'The Church hears the suffering cry of all who are uprooted from their own land, of families forcefully separated, of those who, in the rapid changes of our day, are unable to find a stable home anywhere. She senses the anguish of those without rights, without any security, at the mercy of every kind of exploitation, and she supports them in their unhappiness.' Among today's immigrants, those who have fled war, famine, civil unrest, and economic desperation deserve our special understanding and support...."

On poverty, the US Catholic Bishops said in 2005: "A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first."

As a Church devoted to a Savior who chose to be born in poverty under an oppressive empire, a Savior who had to flee as a refugee to escape death, a savior who preached liberation to the poor and oppressed, a Savior who called for love of enemies and did exactly that on the Cross, a Savior whose desire for intimacy with humanity is so great that His body continues to be broken and blood poured out daily in the sacrifice of the Mass, Catholics need to do more than oppose abortion, especially when that oppositiuon can be interpreted as an endorsement of politicians who favor all manner of other evil. Ω

Take No Prisoners

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts of a episode produced by Chris Harland-Dunaway for the Center for Investigative Reporting's program Reveal. *National Public Radio first broadcast it on 7/28/18 and again on 12/29/19.*

Frank Hartzel [93-year-old US Army veteran interviewed outside Philadelphia]: We were actually on the Channel, on December 16th [1944] when the Battle of the Bulge started.

Chris Harland-Dunaway: ...The pre-dawn sky lit up with artillery fire. For the next three weeks, the entire war hung in the balance. It was Hitler's secret last-ditch counterattack against the allies in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium.... Hitler's favorite tank commander led the charge, promising, in his words, to break the resistance by terror. In the opening hours of battle, he shocked American troops near the Belgium town of Malmedy....

The story was gruesome. On the first day of the Battle of the Bulge, American soldiers ran straight into German tanks by accident. They surrendered. German soldiers corralled the American POWs in a muddy field beside a crossroads, and shot them.... In all, 84 American prisoners were killed. It was called the Malmedy Massacre. News of the atrocity was spreading, just as Frank and his battalion were piling into armored trucks called half tracks, heading straight towards those same German forces that massacred fellow GIs.... It was so cold that equipment froze to the ground. Both sides were bogging down, fighting from village to village. This would be Frank's first experience in combat, trying to take control of a Belgian town named Chenogne.

Frank: The next morning then, we made this attack on Chenogne.....

Chris: Another group of Americans tried and failed to take the town the day before. Frank remembers something eight veterans from the 11th Armored say is true. That there was an order to take no prisoners.

Frank: Then we went down in the town, and then we were told to pull back. I do remember digging in the foxhole along the top of that ridge.... There was shooting going, some sporadic artillery came in, and we were digging and it was so hard to dig in that frozen ground. And Bob Fordice, who had been digging, said, "Hey Frank, you want to dig for a while?"

Contemporary drawing of the Malmedy massacre

Chris: Frank got in the foxhole. He hacked at the dirt. It was like rock. Then they heard artillery rumble in the distance. German shells started whistling down all around them.

Frank: And I had been in there digging for two minutes before some 88 fire came in and the hole was just shallow enough, I was lying down. When the fire comes then you lie down. And Bob was lying down on the outside where I had been. And this piece of shrapnel I guess, I heard it, or felt it hit the top of my helmet. Just a little thing down the top of my helmet. And I remember saying, "Boy, Bob, that was close." And I looked up and it had taken the top of his head off....

Chris: In the morning, Frank climbed out of his foxhole. His battalion gathered along the ridge line. Behind them, US artillery started shelling the town of Chenogne, trying to soften up the Germans before the attack. They waited. The guns went quiet. Then, they charged down into town. Machine gun fire snapped through the air, as the GIs ran through the snow. The Germans were ready....

Frank: The houses had been pretty well demolished by the bombs dropped on the town. Dead bodies or people who had been wounded. Combat is chaotic when you're actually in it. It's very chaotic.

Chris: The GIs pushed through the village.... They zigzagged, taking cover from the German guns wherever they could. The Americans couldn't figure out where one of the machine guns was shooting from. Then they spotted the source. The basement window of a farmhouse.... Two of Frank's buddies hopped the wall, lobbing grenades at the open upstairs windows. Their aim was bad. The grenades bounced off the side of the farmhouse. One of the men dove into the doorway of the house to dodge the explosion. The other guy was shot while trying to make it back to that stone wall....

Chris: Behind Frank, a bunch of these quick, scrappy American tanks rolled into town. One of them fired its cannon at the farmhouse. The smoke cleared, and the machine gun went quiet. The site of the farmhouse was cratered. There was nothing the Germans could do but surrender....

Frank: I just remember them filing out, yeah. With long overcoats, and they were pretty bedraggled, as we were....

Chris: Under the rules of land warfare in the US, the Germans were prisoners of war. They should've been taken to a collection point behind the frontlines and transferred to a prison camp. Instead, the German soldiers were stripped of their weapons, and herded to an empty field where they stood in the snow.

Frank: Things quieted down, and I remember we got orders, take no prisoners.

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No Prisoners

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I think it was that afternoon that they were shot. When I walked past a field where there were these dead bodies. I knew they were dead Germans.

Chris: Frank says he wasn't in the field when the German prisoners were gunned down. He says that he had no part in it....

Frank: The person who issued the original order had a lot of responsibility. I couldn't pull a trigger on just a man standing, an unarmed man. I don't think most people could do that....

Chris: Roger Marque a 72-year-old, who says he'll never forget what US soldiers did for Belgium, was born just a year after the war, in a town nearby. And he sees the guys of the 11th Armored Division, guys like Frank Hartzel, as saviors, liberators. So, it came as a shock when Roger first heard rumors... that Americans might have massacred German prisoners of war.

Roger: But I decided maybe it's not true.... And I began my own investigation.

Chris: To understand the full story, Roger embedded with the 11th Armored division veterans, like Frank Hartzel.... Roger used to hang out at reunions back at in the States where he'd take guys aside and interview them alone. One by one, he pieced together what happened....

[Roger took Chris to Chenogne]

Roger: There's the house with the basement where the Germans were killed...

Chris: ...In front of us is a three-story farm house, strung with gold Christmas lights. Seventy-four years ago, that high caliber German machine gun was in the basement window. An American tank shot its cannon point blank at the house. It caught fire, the basement filled with smoke and screaming.... Roger points at the cellar door....

Roger: It's the stairs, where the guys came out. The first one was a German medic.

Chris: Roger says he carried a white flag, and American soldiers were positioned in a sort of semi-circle around him. Rifles raised.

Roger: Without any words, he was killed....

Chris: With the basement on fire, one by one, German soldiers emerged, trying to surrender. And one by one, 19 of them were shot.... There were other German POWs staggering out of farmhouses trying to surrender. GIs stripped them of their weapons. An American commander then barked an order.

Roger: He said, "Not here, guys. Because the Germans could see us. Come a little bit further."

Chris: There were still German soldiers clustered in the forest, just outside of town. Potential witnesses. So, the Americans herded their prisoners down the hill... past the church to a meadow.... Steve Bugden

from 11th Armor, Frank Hartzel, and his friend John Fague, who were bystanders to the incident, estimate that Americans machine-gunned 60 German prisoners. That combined with the cellar incident makes around 80 German prisoners killed, after they had surrendered to Americans. Two weeks earlier, when Germans massacred American prisoners in Malmedy, they killed 84. Chenogne nearly settled the score.

Chris: Back at Roger's house, we go into his study. Right above his desk, there's a photograph of Bob Fordice, Frank's best friend, who was killed by shrapnel when they were digging that foxhole.... Roger adopted his grave. That spot where Frank and Bob dug on the ridge, where Bob was killed, it's in Roger's backyard. He built his house there for that reason, and planted a tree to honor Bob.... These American soldiers gave their lives to liberate his little corner of the Ardennes Forest, where the Battle of the Bulge plowed through Belgian villages and people's lives. But one question nagged Roger. How could these saviors also kill all those unarmed Germans who surrendered?

Roger: One of them told me we became animals at the time of the combat....

Chris: ...It's hard to know who gave the order to take no prisoners. Especially since many military records from that time have been destroyed by fire. But it's not like they didn't know about it. There's a book called **The Patton Papers**. It's mostly a transcription of General George S. Patton's diaries and notes. It says this about Chenogne. "There were also some unfortunate incidents of the shooting of prisoners. I hope we can conceal this." But I found Patton's original handwritten diary in the Library of Congress.... I found the same passage.... Except this passage is different.... I read it aloud to Roger, slowly. "Also murdered 50-odd German men. I hope we can conceal this."

Roger: .... Whoa.

Chris: Roger is surprised, because this diary entry seems to prove something he long suspected. Patton knew his troops had killed German prisoners. At least 50. Also, Patton called it murder....

[Chris also interviewed 99-year-old army veteran Ben Farenz who is the last surviving prosecutor from the Nuremberg trials.]

Chris: It was the biggest murder trial in human history. 22 defendants, all part of Nazi death squads known as the Einsatzgruppen. They were accused of murdering over a million Jews and other civilians.... [Frarenz also prosecuted Germans for killing the US prisoners in Malmedy.] But what about the massacre in Chenogne? Americans killed a similar number of German troops. There were no trials for the Americans, no prosecutions, and certainly no death sentences. But there was a call for an investigation, one that few know anything about. It's all

inside a declassified file I got. One filled with confidential reports from just after the war, including one about Chenogne. A soldier named Max Cohen described seeing roughly 70 German prisoners machingunned by the 11th Armored. Then, there was a back and forth. General Dwight D. Eisenhower demanded a full investigation. The 11th Armor said they sent it. Eisenhower's office said, "We don't have it. Send it again." Then, the 11th Armored basically said, "It's too late. The war is over, the unit's disbanded." In the end, Eisenhower never received any investigation into Chenogne.... Sitting on his couch in Florida, I ask Ben what he makes of it.

Ben Farenz: Well, it smells to me like a cover-up. Does that surprise you?

Chris: During his investigations for the trials at Dachau and Nuremberg, Ben thoroughly investigated German war crimes, driving all over, interrogating people, researching documents, exhuming hastily buried bodies with his shovel.

I asked him, "So, was it ever your job to investigate American war crimes?"

Ben: No, ...I was hired to investigate German war crimes.

Chris: So, even if you received evidence that an American war crime had occurred, like Chenogne, you wouldn't be told to go investigate it?

Ben: Well, the truth is, and pay attention, of course Americans commit crimes in war. And it happens on both sides, on all sides, in all wars.

Chris: Is it your understanding that when our guys go into a war... [some of them will] commit war crimes?

Ben: War is the supreme international crime. We have glorified war for centuries.

Chris: The men and women who went to fight in World War II are often referred to as the greatest generation.

Ben: That's nonsense. There's no greatest generation. Greatest generations say what the government's doing is wrong and we will not support it. That's the greatest generation. When they said, "Hell no", in the Vietnam War, "Hell no, Mr. President. We won't go." Stop war-making is the answer.

Chris: Ben Farenz says war crimes can only be avoided if countries avoid war in the first place. Not only will the bad guys commit them, the good guys will commit them, too. This is the natural course of humanity's most destructive activity. It's easier to deal with that truth in general, but what about in miniature, on a personal level? After those Americans killed prisoners in Chenogne, there was no big trial. I wondered what that did to them. What it was like living with that. When I was in Belgium talking with Roger Marque, he talked a lot about Frank Hartzel's experiences as a soldier.... Among the stories, there was one I had trouble understanding.... But as I sat in Frank's living room in the suburbs outside Philadelphia, I asked about it.

Anti-Vietnam War protest, photo by Fred W. McDarrah

"Roger told me a story where you shot a German that you came across. It was at Chenogne, I think. Do you have any recollection of this?"

Frank: I shot two soldiers [trying to surrender]... They were in a foxhole and I shot them.... Something I'll never forgive myself for. It was my first day in combat, they were ... two young boys, and I shot them. No excuse for it. ...I could've just passed them by. We were under fire. It was our first attack. But I didn't have to shoot them....

Chris: To be clear, what Frank is talking about happened in the first 30 minutes of battle.... Two Germans stood up from a foxhole, their arms above their heads, and called out to him, "Comrade." That's what Germans yell to surrender. Frank says it all happened so fast, that he acted out of instinct and fear. It's been nearly three quarters of a century, and Frank hasn't told anyone about this....

Frank: ...I've never forgiven myself for what I did that morning, and will regret it until the day I die. I can't begin to tell you how many times throughout the last seventy-three years I remembered and regretted what I did during my first half hour in combat. Whenever I think of my son or my grandsons, and how much I love them, I think of the bereavement of those unknown parents. When I think of the long and happy life I have had, of the joys of living and loving, and learning, and working, and parenting, the beauty of our world, the marvelous discoveries about the composition, scale of the universe, the understanding of molecular biology, the digital revolution, et cetera, et cetera, I think of how my action deprived two boys who are no doubt as innocent and un-warlike as I was, add up all that and so much more. ...In the last analysis, I committed an act for which there is no excuse, and no forgiveness, and I've lived with that realization most of my life.

Chris: Frank doesn't know anything about those two young German soldiers. Whether they lived or died, whether they were Hitler youth, or unwilling conscripts. It's impossible to know. One can plead extenuating circumstances. The order to take no prisoners, the Malmedy Massacre just two weeks earlier. Maybe even the very fact that these two soldiers were fighting for Nazi Germany. Earlier, Frank told me that war is chaotic. That it's different when you're up close. For Frank, the greatest extenuating circumstance might actually be war itself. But some seventy-three years after shooting those two young men, it's a point that brings him no comfort. Ω

Winds of Change

by Beverly M. Miller

To ride a painted pony
across a wind-swept hill
Imagination's our guide,
to be called upon at will.

Drumming beat of horses' feet
summon voices from the past,
"Dare ride out this storm,
our challenge may be your last!"

Multitudes slap their steeds
as thunder rolls o're the land.
Angry souls spit lightning bolts,
fierce winds rage from waving hands.

Floods of tears from generations
appear as torrential rain.
All races sharing like emotion,
each tear's color is the same.

We kick our ponies harder now
to gain distance from the strife.
Hands clench reins with knuckles white,
we're holding on for life.

Then as fast as it all started
the winds begin to die.
Swirling clouds above our heads
hold sunlight in the sky.

Their gentle laughter outlines color
in a picturesque rainbow.
All sights and sounds softly fade,
disappearing with the blow.

Exhausted ponies slow,
it's time to bid them farewell
With knowing winks,
father and son dismount the carousel. Ω

Candidates' Report Card

Editor's Note: Catholic Workers have a long tradition of skeptisism and outright opposition to voting as a method of advancing social justice. As pacifists, we oppose the use of soldiers, police, and judges to promote policies via violent means. As personalists, we favor grass-roots action over top-down approaches. Nonetheless, we are happy to present our evaluation of the current list of candidates running for president of the United States. The contradiction of these candidates on life issues reminds us of Ammon Hennacy's line, "If God wanted us to vote, God would have given us candidates," but we respect those who are working to promote the most compassionate and just political system possible.

Candidate	abortion	climate change	nuclear weapons	death penalty	immi-gration	poverty	grade
Michael Bennett (D)	D	C	F	A	C	B-	**C**
Joseph Biden (D)	C	C+	F	A	B	B	**C+**
Michael Bloomberg (D)	F	C+	F	A-	B	C+	**C**
Peter Buttigieg (D)	D-	C+	F	A	B	B	C
John Delaney (D)	F	B	F	A	C	C+	**C**
Tulsi Gabbard (D)	D-	B+	B	A	B	B	**B-**
Amy Klobuchar (D)	C-	B	C+	A	C	C+	**C+**
Deval Patrick (D)	F	C+	D-	B+	B	C+	**C+**
Tom Steyer (D)	F	B+	B	A	B+	B+	**B-**
Bernie Sanders (D)	F	A	C+	A	A	A	**B+**
Donald Trump (R)	B	F	F	F	F	D	**D-**
Joe Walsh (R)	B	C-	C	B+	D+	C	**C+**
Bill Weld (R)	F	C	D+	D	B	C	**D+**
Elizabeth Warren (D)	D-	B+	B+	A	A	A	**B+**
Andrew Yang (D)	D-	B	B	A	B	B+	**B-**

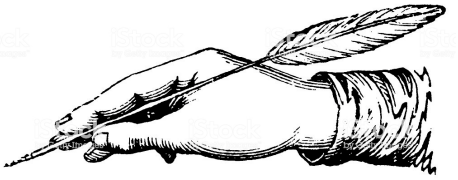
"Don't worry about being effective. Just concentrate on being faithful to the truth."

"I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least."

"I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions."

Dorothy Day

LETTERS



Claire & Scott,
Thanks so much for "Show Me the Money" in the last *C.R.* It well-articulated what I've been asking myself and others who will listen. It seems even the most progressive of politicians will not go there [calling for reduced military spending] though Sanders did in the last debate. It is the third rail of politics. How is it we insist on being the largest military on the planet rather than to better meet the needs of those in our own nation and others abroad? Ah, yes, it's the money. Peace

Bob Wegener
Quincy, Massachusetts

Hi, Scott and Claire.
I pray twice a day for you, your family, your Catholic Worker home, your volunteers, and all who love you.

I don't recall if I sent a prayer that I wrote last fall. I'm wondering if you might like to print it in your next Catholic Worker paper:

A Daily Prayer in the Nuclear Age

Dear God, Mother/Father of all that lives on this earth, help me today to understand how real and how serious is the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Do not allow me to deny this threat nor fall victim to apathy, fear, helplessness, or despair.

Help me to take a stand and to join with others in prayer and action.

Be with me as I attempt to settle disputes peacefully, and give me words to encourage those in power to actively seek the resolution of conflicts without resorting to war.

Strengthen my resolve in this work of peace which I begin anew today. Amen

Jane Cadarette
North Andover, Massachusetts

Dear Goodman Scott and
Goodwoman Claire,
I decided to read the articles in ***The Catholic Radical*** by and about Archbishop Hunthausen. I guess I have another Catholic hero to add to cardinals Cushing and Bernardin, Bishop Flanagan, and, of course, good Pope John.

Peace on earth. The three greatest words.

Phil Brewer
Rutland, Massachuesetts

To the Editors,
If anyone has a chance to read Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's new book, **Haunted**, he chases down the ghost of the black family who lived in the house that he lives in. He, in turn, gives a great history lesson on just how difficult it is and was to be black in America. I was taken by surprise by all of the information contained in this new book. READ IT! It's more than worth it, and it also has Scott's inimitable sense of humor through the worst of times.

Dianne Boover
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Scott,
I really enjoyed **Haunted**! I loved all the history and the scary bits, too. It was a good fast read, and it kept me interested all the way through despite your many little side trips. It was an exciting story of discovery, and the way you wove in the urgings of the ghost and your everyday life made it very entertaining, not just a slog through historical archives. I especially liked the device of writing it as a journal. The black history was great, and I hope Worcester considers using it for part of a Black History Trail.

Christine Duffy Zerillo
Bloomfield, Connecticut

Dear Scott,
I like the diary format and illustrations. It must have taken a lot of time to research **Haunted**! Your ghostly apparitions are believable. I'm glad you included Claire's trip to Rome to confront the bishops. Your stories are filled with humor and insight, and yes, wackiness.

Willa Bickham
Viva House
Baltimore Catholic Worker

*Editor's Note: Copies of **Haunted** available for purchase in person or by mail for $15 or whatever you can afford here at SS. Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker, 52 Mason Street, Worcester, MA 01610.*

Catholic Worker Calendar

February 5 & 19, March 11 & 25—Evening Prayer: Join us for prayer and Taizé chant. 7 P.M. 52 Mason Street. Refreshments to follow.

March 5 — Sing Along: An evening singing popular tunes accompanied by the incomparable Dan Burke on piano. We will provide the lyrics, food, and drink. A night not to be missed. 7 P.M. 52 Mason Street.

Weekly Peace Vigil: Every Tuesday from 3-4 P.M. Lincoln Square, Worcester. Parking is available behind the World War I memorial. We bring plenty of signs, but others are welcome.

Mason Street Musings

Our community has a cottage industry named "The Bread Not Bombs Bakery." We get up early to bake oatmeal raisin, honey wheat, Italian, buttermilk white, and Irish soda bread, along with carrot raisin bran muffins and cinnamon swirls. For a nominal fee, Blessed Sacrament parish lets us use the Phelan Center's professional kitchen to do so. We offer the baked goods along with this newsletter for donations at different Catholic church most weekends.

One benefit of this enterprise is a chance to observe dozens of Catholic parishes. While we sometimes hear less-than-inspiring music and homilies, more often than not, we are touched by the holiness we discover. Catholic Workers sometimes see ourselves as cutting-edge Christians with a copyright on how to achieve peace and justice, morally superior to once-a-week Catholics. And yet, in a time of reduced religious participation in general and greater public criticism of Catholicism in particular, individuals and their parishes often put me to shame.

Saint Susanna's in Dedham, for example, had a traditional creche scene in front of its church half-flooded with water to dramatize the climate emergency. Saint John's in Worcester opens its doors to homeless people on cold nights. Eight parishes twin with desperately poor parishes in Haiti. The music at Our Lady

of the Lake in Leominster, among others, is gorgeous. I have heard homilies that I would gladly publish in these pages, like one we ran by Father Tim Brewer, who called for the love of enemies less than a week after the 9/11 attacks.

Saint Mary's in Jefferson has a sign outside in many languages, including Arabic and Hebrew, proclaiming "Hate Not Welcome Here." At each Mass, parishioners pray: "My Church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. ...It will do great work if I work. It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a Church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my Church to be. Amen."

When Catholic Workers think of community, we often think of our own households or our movement in general, but the entire Catholic community and human race are actually part of our family. This realization makes it easier to be hopeful and joy-filled.

Although I've only met a fraction of our readers in person, I can assure you that you too feel like family. Thank you so very much! Ω **Scott**

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